



JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE TASK FORCE TO STUDY EFFECTS OF GENESEE HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today named a task force of administration officials and other interested parties to prepare contingency plans in light of the closing of Genesee Hospital and report back to him within 30 days.

Doyle named the seven-member panel in response to concerns that an abrupt closure of the hospital would cause deterioration of public health and safety.

"While the broader issues of health care delivery and quality of care certainly merit attention, our efforts as a county government must now be focused on the specific areas where we have a duty to provide or coordinate service," Doyle said.

Doyle said the task force would address the following issues:

- Review and revise as necessary county disaster plans in light of the reduced emergency department capacity and reduced hospital bed capacity resulting from the closure of The Genesee Hospital.
- Update a report dated January of 2001 by the Rochester Code Red Workgroup which analyzed the frequent overload on community emergency departments and made recommendations. "Code Red" in hospital parlance means that a hospital's emergency department is at capacity and is unable to take more patients. When that happens, patients enroute to one hospital must be diverted to another.
- Inventory and develop a plan to replace services currently provided on behalf Monroe County under contracts. For example, the county's Mental Health Division currently contracts with The Genesee Hospital for about \$1.5 million per year, which now must be transferred to other ViaHealth programs or moved to other providers. Those services include adult and adolescent inpatient hospitalization, partial hospitalization, outpatient clinic treatment, continuing day treatment, case management services and crisis services.

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- Solicit input from interested parties in healthcare, in industry and from citizens to develop a set of key "unanswered questions" on the situation.
- Develop input to the New York State Department of Health's regulatory process regarding the closure and the issues affecting Monroe County programs.

Doyle named Monroe County Health Director Dr. Andrew S. Doniger to head the task force. Dr. Elisabeth Hager, president-elect of the Monroe County Medical Society, will represent physicians and Martha Bond, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency will share that agency's perspective.

Also named to the task force were Assistant County Executive Kevin Crerand, who advises Doyle on health care issues, Daniel Labowitz, the county's Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Gary Pence, Director of Public Safety, and Steven Dungan, Director of Mental Health.

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